



**Sons of the American Legion
Detachment of Vermont
General Meeting
October 26th, 2019**

1. Commander Dave Hendee (DH) called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM and the opening prayer was given by Chaplain Steve England (SE). Sgt-At-Arms Jamie Westcott reported three visitors for the meeting including Joe Byron of the Honor Flight, PDC Dave Woodward and Commander Ron Larosse and then posted the POW/MIA banner and Blue Star banner. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sr. Vice Commander Jeremy Revell (JR).
2. Adjutant Marc Colety (MC) read the roll call and a quorum was announced.
3. Motion by JR and seconded by J. Riendeau to dispense of the reading and accept the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion passed.
4. Finance Officer Norm Scolaro (NS) presented the finance report to the DEC. Motion made by JR and seconded by Bion Wyman (BW) to accept the report as read. Motion passed.

Checks were presented as follows:

Squadron 10; Barre for the Dodge House in the amount of \$300.

5. Committee Reports:

Activity Committee Report given by Henry Cleveland (HC). Reported on the golf tournament status which includes the possibility of having to change from Neshobee. There was discussion about possible future locations if required including the possibility of rotating courses. Some logistical reasons were discussed about how difficult that would be to accomplish. Generally Randolph was considered to be an option if required. HC reported we will do the wiffle ball challenge again. The committee will review the Neshobee situation and options if required. HC also reported on the Caspian Arms Pistol raffle costing \$1,500 this year.

Americanism Committee Report given by: No report

Children and Youth Committee Report given by: No report.

HC discussed the Hardwick upcoming event where kids get their pictures taken with the American Flag and are entered into a raffle for Twin City Lanes.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee Report given by John Waite (JW).

John again stressed the need to get squadrons Constitution and By-Laws updated and again offered his help in updating them.

Historian Committee Report given by Lucas Herring (LH) discussed the Bladensburg Warm Memorial. He also distributed handouts on historian books and scrap book details.

Legislative Committee Report given by LH. Lucas outlined the American Legion's top twelve legislative priorities. He also outlined the current eight veteran impact legislation for the Vermont legislative session.

Membership Committee Report given by Jeremy Revell. Jeremy discussed the slow start to membership this year. He advocated for more assistance from district and county commanders and more direct contact with squadrons because emails and even phone calls are going unanswered. Discussed the 4000 member goal for Vermont this year. JW interjected about needing more communication. Brian Massey (BM) discussed the North vs. South membership challenge between he and Bill Brothers. They have each put up \$250 of their own money in a challenge to reach 100%. Let's help our Area Commanders win their challenge!

Public Relations Committee Report given by Marc Colety (MC).

Nothing new to report except the Sons of The American Legion national Facebook page picked up our October Detachment newsletter for national distribution.

Scholarship Committee Report given by Henry Cleveland (HC).

No new programs to report on. Golf Tournament and Caspian Arms pistol raffle are in play again this year. It was mentioned to post our program information in our posts and to request permission from posts that do not have a squadron.

VA&R Committee Report given by MC.

Very brief report on some VA&R history at the Detachment level. Discussed the assistance received from JW and Butch Ray in getting information flowing into the Detachment again. Will be advocating for adding the Operation Comfort Warrior Program in place in Vermont at Mid-Winter Convention but will use the next two newsletters to provide information to the Detachment.

VA&E Committee Report given by : No Report.

Awards Committee Report given by Steve England (SE).

Steve drew everyone's attention to the display of all the awards in the room that the Detachment of Vermont achieved at National Convention.

NEC Report given by PDC John Waite (JW)

JW discussed the new online membership program. JW believes we should defer until the "kinks" are worked out in the system. Right now there is no good way to notify the Detachments of the processing. Instead JW advocates getting all the squadrons on MySAL.org first and continue to do memberships the way we have for the short term. JW reported that the NEC did not approve a change to membership at the fall meeting so there is no change to membership eligibility for the S.A.L. yet. JW also reported that Commander Hendee has been accepted into the NMI program. Finally he reported about the new requirement for certifications of membership. We will not be certifying current members (unless they are running for a Detachment Commander or National office, however all new members are going to have to be certified as eligible and records kept of eligibility.

6. Sick Call and Relief. PDC Frank Gabaree is still having serious health issues although there has been some improvement.

7. Notes and Correspondence. None.

8. Old Business. None

9. New Business. None

10. Other Business:

- PVNC/PDC John Waite presented to Lucas Herring the Cover for the George B. Evans National Legislative Veterans Advocate of the Year. Congratulations Lucas!
- Commander Hendee installed Detachment Sgt. At Arms Jamie Westcott.
- PDC John Waite reviewed the Achievements of the Sons of The American Legion for 2019. MC to post on the Detachment website.

11. Visitors:

- Joe Byron – Honor Flight Founder/Executive Director for New England region. Joe discussed his first encounter with the Honor Flight program in Washington D.C. and also shared a story of a veteran who was a POW during the Korean War and the struggles he went through during and after the war. This story was part of the reason Joe became so committed to giving back with the Honor Flight program.
- PDC Commander and current SAL Advisor Dave Woodward came in and discussed the accomplishments of the Vermont Detachment, talked about membership and presented awards to Rutland 31 and Chester 67 for 100% membership.

12. Training:

- Module I – PDC John Waite distributed a quiz amongst all attendees about the Sons of The American Legion. Everyone took the quiz and we reviewed the answers. The main point of the exercise was how and where to find answers to questions we might be asked by members.
- Module II – PDC Henry Cleveland presented information on preparation for a meeting.
- Module III – PDC Steve England presented on mentoring programs, strategies and tactics.
- Module IV – PDC John Waite presented information on the roles and responsibilities for District and County Commanders.

13. Chaplain Steve England read our closing prayer.

14. Commander Dave Hendee adjourned the meeting at 12:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Colety

Marc Colety - Adjutant